UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC 17 2013

OFFICE OF
CIVIL RIGHTS

Return Receipt Requested
Certified Mail#: 7004-1160-0002-3622-8516

In Reply Refer to:
EPA File No.: 08R-11-R4

Leon Rodriguez, Director
Office of Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 509F HHH Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Referral of Civil Rights Complaint

Dear Mr. Rodriguez:

On March 12, 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Civil Rights (OCR), received a letter in regard to the rejection of Title VI complaint (No. 08R-11-R4). The complaint stated that the City of Brooksville, Hernando County, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the Florida Department of Health (DOH) ("entities") intentionally discriminated against (b) (6) Privacy by denying the citizens of South Brooksville a safe and healthy community.[1] Specifically, (b) (6) Pri stated that they have allowed ten (10) contaminated sites in the City of Brooksville, a residential community, to spew chemicals from 1948 until October 12, 2011.[2]

Specifically, (b) (6) Pri alleged that African Americans did not have the opportunity to provide input in the 2012 Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) Health Needs Assessment. Due to the nature of the allegation, OCR has determined that it would be more appropriate for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to investigate this matter. OCR, therefore, is referring the July 21, 201, and March 12, 2013, allegations to HHS for review and action. A copy of the complaint letter is enclosed with this correspondence. We have also copied the complainant on this letter to acknowledge that we have forwarded this complaint to you. EPA is enclosing the complainant's supplemental clarifying information and original complaint for your reference.

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[1] Administrative Complaint No. 8R-11-R4 filed by (b) (6) Privacy on behalf of all Citizens of South Brooksville (34601) (July 21, 2011).
[2] Id.

If you have any questions about this correspondence, please contact Ms. Waleska Nieves-Munoz of my staff by telephone at (202) 564-7103, by e-mail at nieves-munoz.waleska@epa.gov, or by mail to U.S. EPA, Office of Civil Rights, (Mail Code 1201A), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20460.

Sincerely,

Vicki Simons
Acting Director

Enclosures

cc: Stephen G. Pressman, Associate General Counsel
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(b) (6) Privacy

[redacted]